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ACTION EURE-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 NEA-06
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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7302
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 3082

EO 12065: XDS-1 7/26/89 (CANNEY, PAUL F) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM PINT UR US SW
SUBJ: (C) RAOUL WALLENBERG CASE: MEDIA COVERAGE OF VISIT TO US OF WALLENBERG'S SISTER

REF: A) STATE 189168, B) STOCKHOLM 2833

1. (U) SWEDISH PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION HAVE GIVEN RATHER HEAVY PLAY THIS WEEK TO VISIT TO US OF MRS NINA LAGERGREN, HALF-SISTER OF MISSING SWEDISH DIPLOMAT, RAOUL WALLENBERG, AND HER EFFORTS TO STIMULATE PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL US ACTIVITY TO HAVE WALLENBERG, IF STILL ALIVE, RELEASED FROM SOVIET PRISON. BULK OF PUBLICITY AND EDITORIAL COMMENT CENTERED ON FORMATION OF AN ACTION GROUP BY SENATORS CHURCH, PELL, MOYNIHAN, AND BOSCHWITZ TO SOLVE WALLENBERG MYSTERY, EMPHASIS GIVEN BY LAGERGREN DURING PRESS CONFERENCE ARRANGED BY AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE TO US INVOLVEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY IN WALLENBERG CASE, REFUSAL OF FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER TO ALLOW CASE TO BE PURSUED WITH MOSCOW IN 1973, AND LAGERGREN'S COMMENT THAT OFFICIAL GOS ATTITUDE TOWARD TAKING UP CASE WITH SOVIETS WAS RATHER PASSIVE, AT LEAST IN EARLIER YEARS.

2. (U) FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE ON NATIONAL
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TELEVISION N JULY 24 BETWEEN MFA SECRETARY GENEDRAL

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LEIF LEIFLAND AND SWEDISH TV REPORTER:
REPORTER: WHAT ABOUT THE US SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR WALLENBERG. WALLENBERG WAS, THIS IS NO SECRET, COMMISIONED BY THE US FOR HIS MISSION IN BUDAPEST IN THOSE DAYS?
LEIFLAND: YES, THAT IS CORRECT. WHEN WALLENBERG WAS SENT DOWN TO BUDAPEST IN THE SPRING OF 1944 IT WAS AFTER A REUEST FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM. IT IS ALSO NO SECRET THAT HIS ACTIVITIES PARTLY WERE FINANCED BY AMERICAN MONEY, AND I CAN WELL IMAGINE THAT, AS YOU PUT IT, THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT FEELS A CERTAIN AMOJNT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR WALLENBERG'S MISSION IN BUDAPEST.

3. (C) CHARGE HAD BRIEFED LEIFLAND ON JULY 23 ON DEPARTMENT'S DISCUSSION WITH SOVIET CHARGE, AS SUGGESTED IN REF A. LEIFLAND SAID GOS WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE OF US INITIATIVE AND LOOKED FORWARD WITH GREAT INTEREST TO ANY RESPONSE SOVIETS WOULD MAKE TO DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST FOR REPORT. LEIFLAND INDICATED GOS MOST PROBABLY WOULD AWAIT SUCH RESPONSE BEFORE TAKING UP CASE WITH SOVIETS AGAIN.

4. (C) SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO FOREIGN MINISTER BLIX (LARS-AKE NILSSON) TOLD CHARGE ON JULY 26 THAT SWEDISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS KEPT MFA FULLY APPRISED OF MRS LAGERGREN'S NUMEROUS MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK. NILSSON MENTIONED THAT THERE WAS A GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT LAGERGREN WOULD MEET BRIEFLY WITH SECRETARY VANCE TODAY PRIOR TO THE SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY ON SALT II BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. IF SUCH MEETING OCCURS, NILSSON SAID, LAGERGREN IS LIKELY TO BE SWAMPED BY
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MEDIA ON HER RETURN TO STOCKHOLM JULY 27 AND THAT ADDITIONAL PUBLICITY FOR HER CAMPAIGN WILL BE GENERATED. NILSSON EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT IN HER MEETINGS WITH PRESS, MRS LAGERGREN WOULD NOT REVEAL IN ANY WAY DEPARTMENT'S MEETING WITH SOVIET CHARGE LAST WEEK.

5. (C) COMMENT: A PRINCIPAL RESULT OF MRS LAGERGREN'S TIRELESS CAMPAIGN (AND THAT OF SEVERAL SWEDISH JOURNALISTS) OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS

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HAS BEEN TO CHANGE SOMEWHAT THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY IN WALLENBERG CASE. WHEREAS MATTER WAS SEEN FOR MANY YEARS AS PURELY A SWEDISH-SOVIET BILATERAL PROBLEM, THE INFORMATION MADE PUBLIC OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS (MUCH OF IT FROM OFFICIAL US DOCUMEHAS CONVINCED THE SWEDISH MEDIA THAT US BEARS HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY AND SHOULD BE IN FOREFRONT OF EFFORTS TO DETERMINE FATE OF WALLENBERG. CANNEY

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